

Van Meter News



CITY OF VAN METER



Raccoon River Days! June 5, 6, 7

Planning is underway! We are looking for a theme for this years festivities! We are also accepting suggestions for grand marshal(s).

Please submit any and all ideas to raccoonriverdays@gmail.com.

Feel free to email or call Becca Wiederholt at 515-210-2848 if you are interested in helping with the planning of the event.

Things to look forward to this year—

- BBQ cook-off, LIVE music, FIREWORKS!
- The parade, inflatables, fun and games!

An all around great time!!

VISIT THE CITY WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES!

It is official! City Hall has a new home at the Bob Feller Museum located at 310 Mill Street. We are still getting settled in, but as of May 15, 2015 we were up and running in the new location.

We look forward to having an open house in the coming weeks to debut the updated facility. In the meantime, it is business as usual.

Come see us anytime for your city business needs or to just say hi!

Other business related news:

**The car wash has opened
their outside wash bay! Be
sure to support the local
business by giving the old
grocery-getter a bath!**

Elected Officials:

-Allan Adams, Mayor

Council Members—

-Bob Lacy,
Mayor Pro Tem

-Michael Peterson

-Kim Sacker

-Owen Stump

-Elizabeth Tweed

City Staff:

City Hall -
515-996-2644

Jake Anderson-
City Administrator
515-954-6094

Liz Thompson-Clerk
515-669-6396

David Herman-
Public Works
515-240-9280

Chad Gillespie-
Public Works
515-371-9933

Bill Daggett-Police Chief
515-202-4154
Dispatch: 515-993-4567
Emergency—911

Jon Bruen, Fire Chief
515-371-8515off

Dorothy Knight-
Library Director
515-996-2435

WWW.VANMETERIA.GOV

Saturday, May 9

Garage Sale Day!! Why not start your spring cleaning by having a Garage Sale? Move out some of those “treasures” in the garage, basement and closets!!! The Annual Community Garage Sale Day will be **Saturday, May 9 from 8am to 3pm.** **All** sites are requested to register and pay \$5.00 which helps defray the cost of advertising and printing maps. All registered will be entered into a drawing for a free floral hanging basket.

Plant Sale!! For those that ordered plants from the park board, they will be available for pick up on **Saturday, May 9 between 8am and 2pm.** If you did not order in advance, there will be extras available for purchase the day of the sale. Pickup at the City Maintenance Building (just west of Casey's). Just in time for Mother's Day!!!

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**



I noticed the other night that it was staying lighter later. In addition to longer days, they are warmer. It is the perfect time to start those spring cleaning projects. It is also time to consider recycling items rather than throwing them away. Change your lifestyle to improve your home and to reduce your environmental impact.

- **Have a garage sale.** One man's junk is another man's treasure! You can keep your items out of the landfill and perhaps give your item new life in someone else's home. If you can't sell them think about donating them to Goodwill or DAV... and locally we have a USAgain container where you can recycle textile items. That bin is still located at 505 Grant.
- **Recycle** your paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum, and plastic in your curbside cart or the overflow bin located at 505 Grant. If you have hazardous household materials such as bug killer, lawn care items, and household cleaners take them to Metro Waste Authority located in Bondurant. They have a satellite location in Winterset at the South Central Landfill—

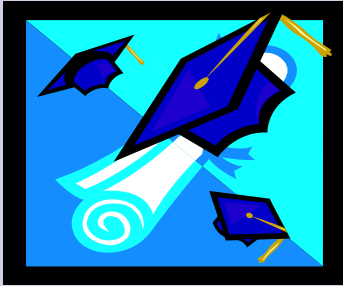
call ahead for an appointment. They are located at 2496 IA-92 in Winterset and can be reached at 515-462-3083.

- **Celebrate Arbor Day** by planting a shade tree along the south or west facing side of your home. It keeps you cool in the summer and blocks the wind in the winter.
- **Hire a heating and cooling expert** to service your air condition system. Replace the filters and adjust your thermostat settings. Use your ceiling fans. They can make you feel cooler which allows you to raise your temperature setting up to 4 degrees. Remember to shut them off when you aren't in the room.
- **Ride your bike or walk** instead of driving your car when possible.
- **Start a compost bin** for recycling kitchen and yard waste.
- **Install a rain barrel** to save water for landscaping.

MAY RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Monday, May 4

Monday, May 18



CONGRATULATIONS!

Van Meter

Class of 2015

**Best Wishes in your
future endeavors!**



***Yesterday is but
today's memory, and
tomorrow is today's
dream—Khalil Gibran***

VAN METER POLICE DEPT

CODE 411:

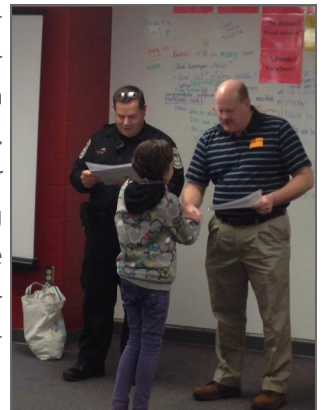
- is a **substance abuse, violence prevention and internet safety program** that is provided to the 5th grade students of Van Meter Community School District;
- is a dynamic 10-week program designed to assist students in recognizing and resisting the pressures that influence them;
- covers **bullying and harassment**, and how it affects people, as well as, how someone can get arrested for harassing another individual;
- addresses various crimes that are common to teenagers, such as **criminal mischief/vandalism, shoplifting, assault, burglary** and a variety of other crimes.

This program focuses on the understanding of the effects on the body from **tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, inhalants, prescription and over-the-counter drugs**. They discuss the laws of under-age use and possession.

Police Chief Daggett has a Masters Degree in Public Administration and was a certified DARE instructor for the Waukee Police Department began teaching this program with the support of the Van Meter Community School three years ago when he first began his employment with the city. He was eager to establish a relationship with the communities youngest citizens. Elementary Principal and Curriculum Director, Jennifer Sigrist praises the program and when asked said, "Drug and bullying prevention are key to our curriculum. The relationship with the city and in particular, Chief Daggett have been instrumental in helping us support student learning in those areas."

At the end of the program there is a graduation ceremony at the school in which students are recognized for all of their hard work during the course.

In addition to Code 411, Chief Daggett has an Explorer Post for students interested in being cadets, he is in attendance at after prom activities, and in conjunction with the Dallas County Sheriff's office and with the assistance of the fire department participates in Every 15 Minutes as needed, as well as being a regular presence at the school to ensure the safety and well being of the students and staff.



Chief Daggett and Mayor Adams present a 411 grad with her certificate of achievement.



LIBRARY NEWS—CHECK IT OUT!!

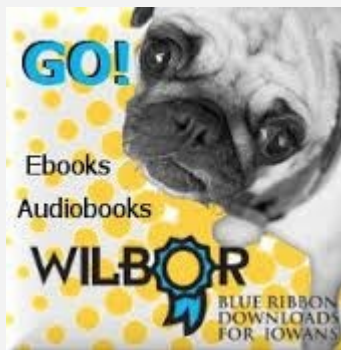
The new Van Meter Public Library Director, Dorothy Knight will begin her employment with the city on Monday, May 4, 2015. Once she gets settled we plan to announce regular library hours! Be sure to stop in and give her a warm Van Meter welcome!

Recommended reading this month comes from library trustee Rachel Backstrom. She read all 13 of Charlaine Harris' Sookie Stackhouse novels. They are the books that the television show True Blood is based on. The southern vampire mysteries series is a first person narration by telepathic waitress Sookie Stackhouse that lives in the fictional town of Bon Temps, Louisiana. The author develops a mythological vampire story that reveals the existence of supernatural beings and their interaction in the human world.

You can "borrow" them through Wilbor. Wilbor is an easy online reading option that requires a reading tablet and a library patron number.

To access Wilbor visit the website—www.wilbor.lib.overdrive.com. On the menu bar there is a tab for accounts that will prompt you to enter the name of your library—Van Meter Public Library. Once you select your library, you will be asked for your patron number. After entering those two pieces of information you may begin to look for books.

It is FREE and EASY!



VAN METER VISITOR FESTIVAL



**Mark your calendar for the 2015
Van Meter Visitor Festival—
September 26, 2015.**

The committee for this event will be forming soon. If you would like to be a part of the fun, please be sure to volunteer by submitting an email to us at

info@vanmeteria.gov or stop in the library to meet Dorothy and let her know that you want to help continue the celebration of Van Meter's supernatural being—**The Van Meter Visitor!!**

Top 10 Best Opening Lines of Novels according to Meredith Borders, Internet Blogger. Agree or disagree? Her claim is that the opening line is the most important. Books contain thousands of words, but non more important than that first sentence. Here is her top 10:

1. Cat's Eye, Margaret Atwood, 1998
"Time is not a line but a dimension, like the dimensions of space."
2. Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury, 1953
"It was a pleasure to burn."
3. Gone With The Wind, Margaret Mitchell, 1936
"Scarlett O'Hara was not beautiful, but men seldom realized it when caught by her charm as the Tarleton twins were."
4. The Gunslinger, Stephen King, 1982
"The man in Black fled across the Desert, and the Gunslinger followed."
5. The Hobbit, J. R. R. Tolkien, 1937
"In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit."
6. Lolita, Vladimir Nabokov, 1955
"Lolita. Light of my life, fire of my loins. My sin, my soul."

7. Middlesex, Jeffrey Eugenides, 2002
"I was born twice: first, as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day in January of 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy, in an emergency room near Petoskey, Michigan, in August of 1974."
8. Peter and Wendy, J. M. Barrie, 1911
"All children, except one, grow up."
9. Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen, 1813
"It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife."
10. Slaughterhouse-Five, Kurt Vonnegut, 1969
"All this happened, more or less."

What about Moby Dick? Call me Ishmael. What else did she forget? I want to know!!

NUISANCES

Spring has sprung... Life is good! Things to consider this spring...

City codes regulates “nuisances.”

Definition of Nuisance: Whatever is injurious to health, indecent, or unreasonably offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property so as essentially to interfere unreasonably with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property is a nuisance.

Nuisance Abatement: Whenever the Mayor or other authorized municipal officer finds that a nuisance exists, such officer shall cause to be served upon the property owner a written notice to abate the nuisance within a reasonable time after notice.

City officials will be more diligent in enforcing these ordinances.

A nuisance can be “junk” and/or the accumulation of “junk.”

“Junk” means all old or scrap copper, brass, lead, or any other non-ferrous metal; old or discarded rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber, debris, waste or used lumber, or salvaged wood; dismantled vehicles, machinery and appliances or parts of such vehicles, machinery or appliances; iron, steel or other old or scrap ferrous materials; old or discarded glass, tinware, plastic or old or discarded household goods or hardware. Neatly stacked firewood located on a side yard or a rear yard is not considered junk.

It is unlawful for any person to store, accumulate, or allow to remain on any private property within the corporate limits of the City any junk or junk vehicles.

Also addressed in the nuisance section of the code are junk vehicles, noise control, animal protection and control, and dangerous and illegal animals.

In part, the dog ordinance prohibits an owner to allow a dog to run at large within the corporate limits of the City. It is unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow or permit such animal to pass upon the premises of another thereby causing damage to, or interference with, the premises.

It is unlawful for the owner or custodian of a dog to permit barking or any other noise excessively, continuously, or intermittently, for any unreasonable period of time so as to create an annoyance or disturbance of any person at any time of day or night.

WEEDS AND BRUSH. Dense growth of all weeds, vines, brush or other vegetation in the City can constitute a health, safety or fire hazard. Unless a variance is allowed by resolution of the Council pursuant to 53.05, weeds, brush, or other uncultivated plants, except trees, shall be cut, mowed and maintained so as to not exceed the heights set forth specifically in this Chapter.

Any property within the City, other than property used and taxed as Agricultural, whether vacated or non-vacated, is required to be mowed prior to the vegetation reaching a height of ten inches (10"). Once the vegetation has reached the height of ten inches (10") or twenty-four inches (24"), the City will arrange to mow the property at the property owner's expense.

Property used and taxed as Agricultural is exempt from this chapter's height and mowing requirements.

Any property which is not mowed may be mowed by the City or their agents, and a charge of \$75.00 per hour, (with a minimum of one (1) hour, and any additional time over the first hour will be billed in half-hour increments), for such mowing, plus an administrative surcharge of \$100.00, will be charged to the property owner. Any property owner who fails to mow their property, thus allowing the same to be mowed by the City or their agents, and who do not provide payment for the mowing as required, will be assessed by the City for such costs, which will be collected in the same manner as general property taxes.

Full copies of these codes can be found at City Hall or on our website at www.vanmeteria.gov.



310 MILL STREET
PO BOX 160
VAN METER IA 50261
Phone: 515-996-2644
Fax: 515-996-2207
E-mail: info@vanmeteria.gov



**"LIKE" City of
Van Meter
on Facebook!**

MEMORIAL DAY

City offices will be **closed** on Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day. That includes the following: City Hall, the Public Library and Public Works.

CEMETERY RULES AND REGS

Pursuant to Municipal Code 115.05:

The following information is a partial list of rules and regulations. Please visit our website at www.vanmeteria.gov for a complete list of the rules and regulations found under the cemetery sections.

Summary of Rules and Regulations:

Pets, food, and firearms, other than those carried by police officers or used in military honor funeral services, shall be prohibited in the cemetery.

No person shall drive any vehicle within the cemetery except upon the driveways prepared and designed for that purpose, and such vehicles shall not be operated in excess of the posted speed limit of 10 mph. Driving on the grass, walks, and alleys is prohibited with the exception of maintenance personnel.

It shall be unlawful for any person to desecrate or injure the cemetery, or any lot, grave, gravestone, monument, fence, tree or shrubbery therein.

General care is assumed by the City and includes the cutting and watering of grass, debris removal, fertilization, and periodic pruning of shrubs and trees.

Grave decorations of all kinds will be removed when in the judgment of maintenance personnel they do not conform to the decorum of the cemetery.

Holiday decorations are permitted, but must be removed thirty days after the holiday. Decorations may be removed and disposed of by cemetery personnel.

The planting or placing of shrubbery, plants, flowers, or grass is prohibited as is the placement of trees.

No coping or fence of any kind shall be permitted.

It is prohibited for cremains to be scattered in the cemetery; or buried without the City's permission and notification.

City staff may handle the placement of cremains upon the request of the family at a fee of \$150 and said fee is established by resolution.

Only a contractor approved by the city shall perform the opening and closing at any gravesite

Lots shall be sold by the city clerk at the established price set by resolution adopted by the City Council. The city clerk shall issue a deed to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price.

An owner of a space in the cemetery may only transfer his or her space to a relative by blood or marriage. Documentation shall be submitted to the city clerk for recording.

The City may purchase a space from an owner at the purchase price, and said space shall be made available to the general public and previous deed voided.